

DD/S&T# 1750-72

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Remarks: Attached are additional references to Soviet MIRVs in the transcript of Secretary Laird's testimony.

We have talked to Braswell and Woolsey, of the Committee staff, who were present during Laird's testimony. Braswell is under the impression that on page 2496, line 7, of the excerpt I sent you earlier, Laird was correctly quoted as referring to MIRVs. Jim Woolsey, on the other hand, feels at this point Laird was referring to MRVs.

cc: DDI, LA/DDS&T,
 D/OSR, FMSAC

John M. Maury
 Legislative Counsel

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1 Secretary Laird. And even where the Soviets would be with-
2 out the agreement, assuming that they continued their proper
3 construction programs, and where they will be with this agree-
4 ment, and where we would be with this agreement, and where we
5 would be without the agreement. We would be in about the same
6 place. But the Soviet situation shows up differently. And I
7 think these charts are helpful.

8 Senator Thurmond. Mr. Secretary, if the Soviets develop
9 a MIRV capability as technologically advanced as our own, couldn't
10 they develop a warhead superiority over us that would be in the
11 same proportion as their superiority in total weight of payload?

12 Secretary Laird. That is correct, assuming that we would
13 not continue our technological improvements, and assuming that
14 we would not go forward with the MIRV 3 program on the rest of
15 our MINUTEMAN, and assuming that we would not go forward with the
16 conversion of the other POLARIS missile system submarines
17 which can be converted to the PSOEIDON.

18 But we are in a position where we have the technology
19 which they do not possess at the present time. They are now
20 testing a MIRV missile. But the MIRV missile that they are
21 testing, although it has stellar initial guidance, does not have
22 the capability for the same number of warheads that we have the
23 technology for at the present time. We feel that in almost every
24 case we are two years ahead of them as far as technology is
25 concerned, and we feel that it is important for us to maintain